

Care After Abscess Incision and Drainage Outpatient Surgery

This sheet will tell you how to take care of your abscess after it has been opened and drained.

Changing the Dressing

You will need to change your dressing once a day. Follow these steps:

1. Remove the dressing and packing and then take a shower.
2. Let warm water run over the wound for ten minutes. Then dry the wound with a clean towel.
3. Clean the wound using sterile (germ-free) Q-tips dipped in hydrogen peroxide.
4. Use the sterile tweezers to pick the gauze out of the bottle. Cut off a strip of the gauze using sterile scissors. Pack the gauze into the wound using a Q-tip. Keep the gauze sterile by keeping the cap on the bottle when you are not using it.
5. Place sterile dressing over the wound and tape it in place.
6. Keep the tips of the sterile scissors and tweezers in rubbing alcohol (you can put the alcohol in a cup or a glass). This will keep the tips clean.

Signs of Infection

Look at the wound at least once a day. If you see any signs of infection, increased:

- swelling
- redness or warmth
- brown or greenish drainage (oozing)

or if you feel more pain, have chills or a temperature above 101°,

call Telephone Care Communication System (TCCS) Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at (612) 725-2242. At any other time, call Urgent Care at (612) 467-2771.

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